

Happening Now



Quartermaster Seaman Doni Stephens watches as the battle ensign is raised on the main mast on board USS Bunker Hill.



The crew musters on the ship's flight deck during an awards at quarters presentation.



Interior Communications Electrician 3rd Class Rusty Johnson enters the starboard side of USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) during a visit, board, search and seizure exercise.



USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) floats in the Manilla Bay during a schedueled port visit to the Philippines.



Sailors on board USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) heave fueling lines from USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) during a replenishment at sea.



Sonar Technician 3rd Class (SW) Joshua Tracey prepares to transfer a training torpedo.



Sailors take advantage of a long awaited beer day on the fantail on board USS Bunker Hill (CG 52).



Seaman Richard Jackson performs pushups on the forecastle on board USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) during the ship's crossing the line ceremony.



Hong Kong is seen off the starboard side of USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) as she maneuvars into position for anchoring.

Started Started











May has been a very exciting month for the crew of USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) as they've departed the 5th fleet area of responsibility and have continued to make their way closer to home.

During that time, they've encountered pirates, celebrated sea time with a beer day, visited two different port calls and witnessed a change of command. Needless to say, the crew

has had plenty of activities to keep them busy.

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Commanding Officers Call

Greetings to all the families, friends and supporters of the USS BUNKER HILL.

am CAPT Mike Ford and I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and let you know how excited I am to be a part of this great team. I relieved CAPT DeScisciolo on 21 May as we transited between port visits in Manila and Hong Kong. It has certainly been an eventful start to this assignment.

First a little about myself. I am originally from Iowa and before entering the Navy via the Nuclear Propulsion Officer Candidate program in 1986, I was a high school teacher and coach in Minnesota. In my 25 years in the Navy, I have been stationed on both the east and west coasts and also served in Japan for a time. I have served aboard six other ships, splitting my time between Aircraft Carriers as a nuclear trained officer and cruiser/destroyer platforms for the remainder. I was fortunate to have Command of the Guided Missile Destroyer USS MUSTIN (DDG 89) between 2004 and 2006 while it was stationed in San Diego and am looking forward to again serving aboard a San Diego based ship. On the personal front, I have been married for almost 23 years to Noreen Hagerty-Ford, a Commander in the U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General Corps. She is currently as-



signed to duty in Washington but will be transferred to the San Diego area later this summer. We both look forward to meeting all the families and friends over the course of the next few months. Again...it is great to be a part of the team.

Now to the good news...we are headed east and making our way back to you! After the crew conducted some final outstanding work in the Fifth Fleet area of responsibility, they were finally rewarded with a couple of well deserved port visits to Manila and Hong Kong. Of the two stops, I'd say the crew likely enjoyed Hong Kong the most but both allowed for some much needed down time and a chance to recharge batteries for this last push home. We are all looking forward to seeing a number of our friends and family at our next stop...Hawaii. Plans are well underway for the Tiger Cruise...it should be an exciting few days both for the Tigers and the sponsors. Of course, it all culminates with our return in a couple of weeks to homeport and a chance for all to see our loved ones...the crew cannot wait!

A final note as I complete my first few weeks as BUNKER HILL's new CO. The road ahead will be challenging. As many of you are aware, the schedule for the summer and the fall will be busy as we prepare for our next deployment. I want you to know that I understand and appreciate the sacrifices that you all make in support of your sailors. We could not do what is needed to meet our mission if it were not for your love and support. Please accept my thanks and that of the entire BUNKER HILL leadership team...you are the foundation that makes us strong and you provide the motivation that we need to keep charging ahead. Thank you and we'll see you soon!

Sincerely,

Michael J. Ford CAPT, U.S. Navy Commanding Officer, USS BUNKER HILL (CG 52)

Executive Officer's Call

BUNKER HILL Family,

We are on our way home at last! After 5 months of busy operations May presented us with many special and unique challenges; but the crew handled them all with skill, dedication, and style.

As we began to depart the 5th Fleet area of operation we were called upon to intervene in an attempted piracy event. Boarding a suspected pirate ship at night is no easy task, but our Sailors made it look like it was. Because of their careful and meticulous efforts that particular group of plunderers will be out of business for a while.

A few more days of operating in the Indian Ocean brought us back to the Strait of Malacca, which you may recall from an earlier newsletter is the busiest, most heavily trafficked "shipping roadway" in the world. Working our way through the traffic jam of merchant ships, ferries, and fishermen we arrived in the South China Sea. Being so close to the equator; BKH took the opportunity to perform the time honored tradition of a "Crossing the Line" ceremony and initiate many of our newer sailors into trusty shellbacks (more about that on later pages).



Also in the South China Sea are the ports of Manila (in the Philippines) and Hong Kong (China). After months of very hard work and constant focus it was incredible for the crew to get to blow off some steam, enjoy new cultures and new places, and (most of all) just to relax for a bit. Many members of the BUNKER HILL crew gave up some of their all-to-rare free time in these ports to participate in COMREL (community relations) projects. They helped to conduct some necessary maintenance and paint in local schools, organized and packaged supplies to be sent to needy villages and refugee camps, and even gave time to the Hong Kong Ronald McDonald house!

We also held a Change of Command ceremony. Capt. DeScisciolo was properly relieved of command of USS BUN-KER HILL by Capt. Ford. Getting a new CO is always an interesting time for a ship – it's the end of one style of leadership and the beginning of another. It is certainly worth taking a moment to thank Capt. DeScisciolo for all that he did on board and ensure him that we will work hard to remember all that he taught us; and to welcome Capt. Ford to the BUNKER HILL Family.

And so, finally, we are homeward bound. There are still a lot of things we need to accomplish before we pull in, but at least we have the ship pointed in the direction we all want to be headed – back to family!

Sincerely,

Brian D. Connolly
LCDR USN
Executive Officer

Command Master Chief's Call

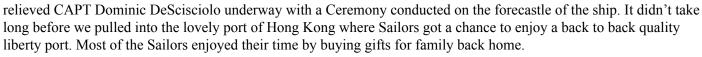
BUNKER HILL Family and Friends,

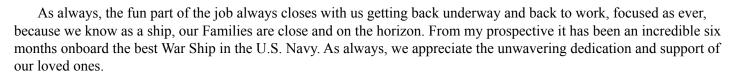
We have reached the final full month of deployment. Sailors are ready to be reunited with the family, friends and love ones. The month of May had a lot of excitement.

We began the month by leaving the 5th fleet area of operation and within hours being pulled back in to the area to conduct a piracy operation. The professionalism of our Sailors ensured the operation went off without incident. On conclusion of that event we continued tracking across the Pacific Ocean home.

As we made our way across, the crew of BUNKER HILL enjoyed another Morale Day; the second of the Deployment. Each Sailor enjoyed two beers again for being at sea for 45 consecutive days. Also, within keeping with tradition we dipped down below the equator and conducted our Shellback Ceremony. After cleansing the ship of its slimy pollywogs, we pull into Manila, Philippines for a much needed port visit for the crew.

A few days after leaving Manila, BUNKER HILL had a Change of Command Ceremony where CAPT Michael J Ford





Sincerely,

Everett M. Mays
CMDCM (SW/AW)
Command Master Chief



Chaplain's Call

Greetings Family, Friends and Crew of USS Bunker Hill,

It is so hard to believe that by the time you read this we will be counting down just mere days until we see you again. The thought of you standing on the pier waiting for us has helped us persevere to the end.

As you know we have finally had some port visits and I was fortunate enough to see your Sailor hard at work during our Community Relations (COMREL) projects. In Manila, we painted classrooms at an elementary school alongside our Philippine Navy shipmates. In Hong Kong we had two COMRELs; we packed a container bound for India and moved a lot of furniture at Crossroads Village, and we also trimmed trees and cleaned up the community kitchen at Ronald McDonald House. Your sailors could have done so many other things with their time, but they chose to give to those that could use a little extra help.



For our homecoming preparations we had the fine folks of Fleet and Family Support Center give several classes for both the married and the single Sailor. They received some training on how to make for a successful return to the family but please go easy on them as they transition home. Enjoy that honeymoon period and if you find yourself needing some help or encouragement please know that you contact me. I am a permanent part of the Bunker Hill family and available to you.

In the meantime if you would like to talk to someone at Fleet and Family Support the following locations and numbers are provided for your use:

Naval Base San Diego (619) 556-7404 Naval Base Coronado (619) 545-6071 www.cnrsw.navy.mil/fsc Naval Base Point Loma (619) 553-8306 Murphy Canyon Branch (858) 277-4259

See you soon!!!!
God's blessings on you and your family.

Chaplain Jim Dewey LT, CHC, USN deweyj@cg52.navy.mil

Bunker Hill Responds To Merchant Distress Calls

n the morning of May 05, 2011, USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) responded swiftly at 30 plus knots to distress calls from the Panamanian flagged merchant vessel Full City. The vessel was boarded by pirates earlier that morning, forcing the crew to take refuge in the ship's citadel.

While the pirates tried to force their way into the citadel, USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) received the merchant's distress calls and aided the vessel by sending aircraft to scene. Upon seeing the aircraft's presence, the pirates left the merchant by disengaging their skiff and fleeing from the area.

Bunker Hill arrived and surveyed the damage inflicted by the aggressive pirates on the merchant's superstructure. Once relieved by the Turkish Frigate Giresun (491), Bunker Hill proceeded directly toward the pirate's mother ship.

A Helicopter from "Scorpions" Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 49 (HSL-49) was launched from the flight deck of Bunker Hill and proceeded to give chase to the mother ship. Once on top, the helicopter fired warning shots, bringing the vessel to a halt.

Shortly after, Bunker Hill caught up, pulling alongside and circling the mother ship until later in the evening when she was green lighted to send the ship's visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) team. The team launched from the port side of Bunker Hill and navigated their way toward the mother ship under the aid of helicopter

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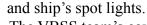








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The VBSS team's coxswain maneuvered next to the vessel, allowing the team to board the mother ship. Once on board, the team cleared the vessel of various small arms, RPG munitions, and other weapons, while gathering numerous cell phones, guidance systems, documents, and intelligence. They departed the mother ship after apprehending the vessels skiff and returned to Bunker Hill. The process took under an hour, and the skiff was sunk later that night by a 25mm cannon.

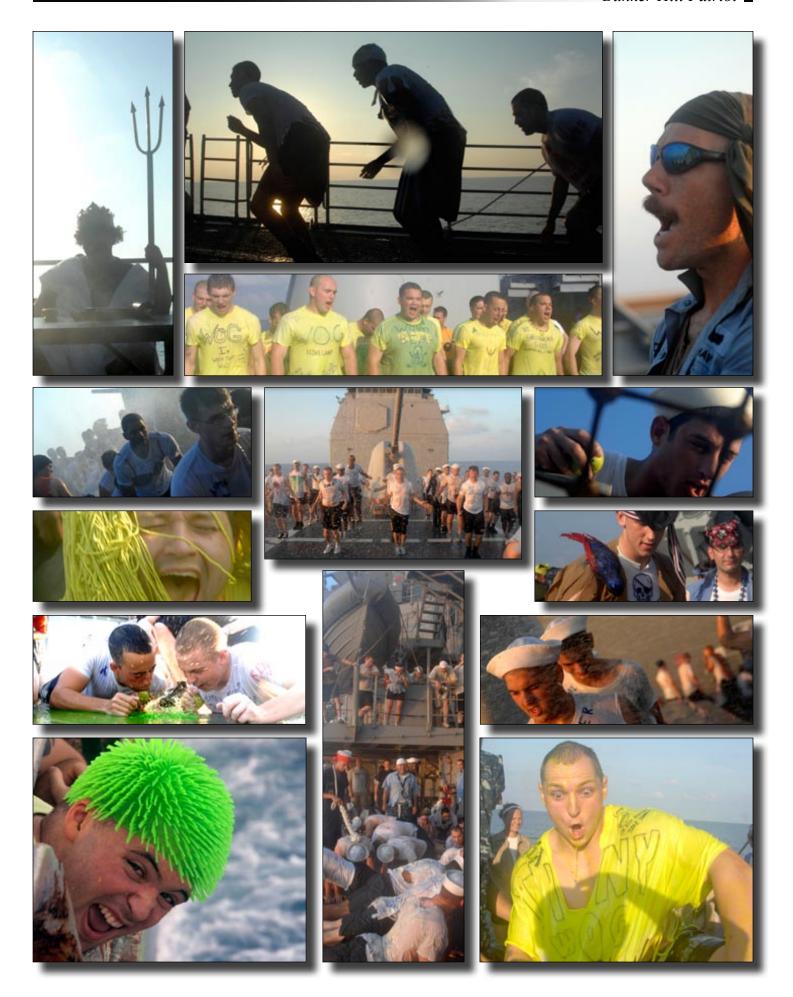
"All hands should take pride in what they accomplished today," said Capt. Dominic DeScisciolo, Commanding Officer of USS Bunker Hill, "under ambiguous conditions, you responded very professionally, quickly, and successfully."













CHANGE OF COMMAND IN SOUTH CHINA SEA



apt. Michael J. Ford relieved Capt. Dominic DeScisciolo as commanding officer of the Ticonderoga-Class Guided Missile Cruiser USS Bunker Hill (CG 52), in a change of command ceremony held at the forecastle of the ship on May 21, 2011.

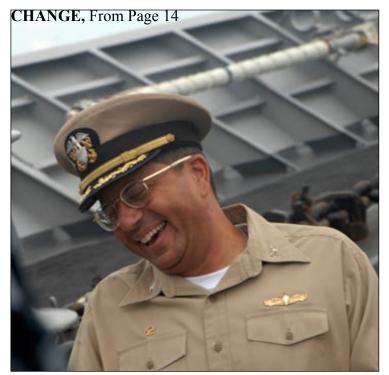
"I am a blessed man," said DeScisciolo, "I have commanded the greatest ship in the Navy; made up of the finest officers, chiefs and Sailors; it has been an honor and a pleasure to command this mighty war ship." The crew assembled and waited on the arrival of the official party that included Rear Adm. Samuel Perez, Carrier Strike Group 1 (CSG-1) Commander. Perez was the ceremonies guest speaker and spoke of the accomplishments of Bunker Hill while under DeScisciolo's command.

"Being the commanding officer of a ship is not easy, and from everything that I see, you (DeScisciolo) forged a winning team and did it with a sense of ease that belies a commanding officer," said Perez.





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CHANGE, From Page 15

During DeScisciolo's 21-month tenure, the ship escorted USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) during the Nimitz-Class aircraft carrier's three month transit to its new home port of San Diego. Along the way, Bunker Hill responded with CSG-1 as part of Haitian relief efforts after the 7.0 magnitude earth quake struck the island nation.

Upon return, Bunker Hill participated in multiple high profile events, including the 2010 Portland Rose Festival and playing host to the Russian Federation Cruiser Varyag's visit to San Francisco. Soon after, Bunker Hill departed on its second post-modernization deployment, operating in the fifth and seventh fleets as Air Defense Commander for Carrier Strike Group 1. While operating in the Middle East, the ship provided direct support for Operations Enduring Freedom and New Dawn, advancing critical U.S. interests in the region.

DeScisciolo is scheduled to report as Director of the Mine Warfare Battle staff at the Naval Mine and Anti-Submarine Warfare Command in San Diego.





ESWS WARRIORS

LS3 (SW) Robert Almendras LS3 (SW) Nigel Boyd LS3 (SW) Faniel Gebray LS3 (SW) Can Zhu GSE3 (SW) Marvell Tillis SN (SW) Joseph Randleman OS3 (SW) Justin Joseph OS3 (SW) Justin Joseph OS3 (SW) Joshua Fournier FC3 (SW) Jarred Welsh ENFN (SW) Johnny Clemente

<u>AWARDS</u>

CTR3 (EXW) Warren Gibson DC3 (SW) David Virden HM1 (FMF) Mat Pagan CTT2 (SW) Kevin Denbow GSMFN (SW) Charles Gomez FC2 (SW) Jamison Laster FC2 (SW) Erin O'kane FC3 Christopher Harp

<u>re-enlistments</u>

EN3 Nathaniel Krentz CS3 Cordero Cisneros

PROMOTIONS

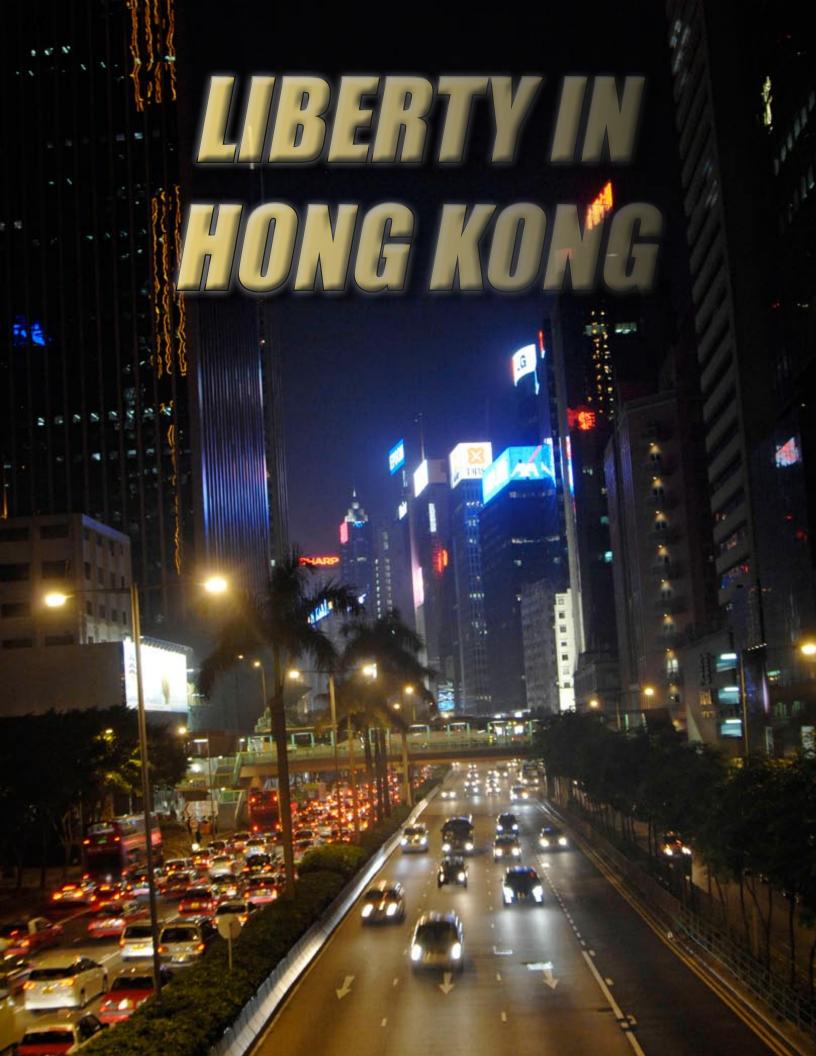
Lt.j.g. Nathaniel Clark Lt.j.g. Susan Choate

Lt.j.g. Erica Caballero

Lt j.g. Jasmine Kelley Lt.j.g. Trisha Kutkiewicz



The crew of USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) muster on the ship's flight deck during an awards ceremony.

















BUNKER HILL SAILORS VOLUNTEER AT PORT VISITS

Zamora Elementary School, Philippines | Crossroads Foundation, Hong Kong

